

REMARKS

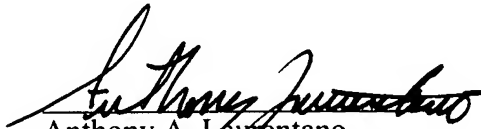
Preliminary to examination of this application, please amend claims 1 and 5 as set forth above. This amendment attends to minor formal matters by removing multiple dependencies and correcting grammar, and is not related to issues of patentability. Support for the amendment to the claim can be found throughout the specification, Figures and claims as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter. Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A. Laurentano", is written over the printed name.

Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No. 38,220
Attorney for Applicants

28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 227-7400

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for fabricating a seal-integrated separator for a fuel cell, and seal-integrated separator including a separator body having a communication port, and seals which are integrated on both sides of said separator body and which are disposed around ~~an electrode's~~ one of a reaction surface of an electrode during use ~~or and~~ around said communication port, comprising the steps of:

providing an upper mold having a groove positioned corresponding to said seal disposed on one side of said separator body, and a lower mold having a groove positioned corresponding to said seal disposed on the other side of said separator body;

holding said separator body between said upper mold and said lower mold; and

injecting melted seal material to form said seals into each of said grooves in said upper mold and said lower mold through separate gates respectively formed in said upper and lower molds.

5. (Amended) A method for fabricating a seal-integrated separator for a fuel cell, said seal-integrated separator including a separator body, and dual seals which are integrated on both sides of said separator body and which are disposed, side by side, around ~~an electrode's~~ a reaction surface of an electrode during use, comprising the steps of:

providing an upper mold having grooves positioned corresponding to said dual seals disposed on one side of said separator body, and a lower mold having grooves positioned corresponding to said dual seals disposed on the other side of said separator body;

holding said separator body between said upper mold and said lower mold; and

injecting melted seal material to form said seals into each of said grooves in said upper mold and said lower mold through gates respectively formed in said upper and lower molds.